NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development

Contact: John Wisdom or Mark Dethrow 417-967-2028

SUMMERSVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE, INC. RECEIVES \$44,000 FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW EQUIPMENT

The Summersville Fire and Rescue, Inc. received a \$44,300 Mock Check on Wednesday, July 9, 2003 at the Fire Station at 274 S. Hwy 17 in Summersville Missouri. The USDA Community Facility Loan and Grant funds will be used to purchase a new Brush Fire Truck with related equipment and new communications equipment (radios). The new truck will primarily be used for fast responses for rescue and brush fire situations. It will also provide additional support for the two existing Fire Trucks when responding to more than one fire at a time. The new radios will be used to provide better communication between the first responders, firefighters and dispatchers.

Greg Branum, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, said, "I am pleased that USDA can help with financing this project for the community. I want to commend the members of Summersville Fire and Rescue, Inc. and the Board of Directors for their efforts to provide improved fire and rescue services to the area."

Summersville Fire and Rescue, Inc. presently has 20 active firefighters of which 15 are also first responders. Their service area covers 312 square miles and approximately 1750 households in Texas and Shannon counties. Their annual operating budget is derived from membership fees, fundraisers, and donations.

Community Facility Loans and Grants are available to public bodies, not for profit entities or Indian Tribes, to finance essential public use facilities and equipment (health, fire, nutrition, libraries, etc.) Anyone seeking more information about the Community Facility Loan and Grant program or any other USDA, Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/ or by contacting the Houston office at 6726B South Hwy 63, Houston, MO 65483 or by calling 417-967-2028, extension 3.